

himalayan TIMES

THE VOICE OF KALIMPONG

UNFORGETTABLE
SPONGE CAKES
MONILA DE



KPG. TO MTV
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INDIA SHINING
ARUN KUMAR
TAMANG



BEAUTY & BRAINS

Beauty and Brains are an irresistible combination- Kalimpong seems to have them both in the right proportions. After Surabhi Rai did the town extremely proud by topping the Indian Forest Service Examination last month and Manisha Pradhan brought laurels to Kalimpong by venturing into the highly glamorous world of Ramp Walking, it is now time for two other young girls to make the town proud. Neha Agarwal of Dr. Grahams Homes and Angela Pradhan of Sapta Shree Gyan Peeth are two new icons whom the youngsters of the town can model themselves after.

BRAINS

Neha Agarwal of Dr. Grahams Homes brought smiles and honour to Kalimpong by topping the ISC (Class XII) examination in the District with 387 marks out of a total of 400 marks. A student of commerce, Neha has scored 97.5% which is exceptional by any standards.



Neha hails from a business family from the town, her father Puran Agarwal being the owner of Sunrise Stores. In a society which still considers a student securing first divisional marks (60%) as an exceptional student, Neha's achievement is no mean feat.

Speaking to Himalayan Times, Neha's father Puran says, "The high marks that Neha has scored is as a direct result of the hard work and dedication of Neha". The Senior Master of Dr. Grahams Homes, Mr. S.L.Banerjee appreciating the efforts of Neha says, "We are proud of Neha as well as of all the others who have secured high marks in the ICSE and ISC examinations. We are sure Neha will do exceptionally well in life".

As per family sources of Neha, she is already in Delhi trying to secure admission in the Lady Sriram College of Commerce which is considered as one of the best in the country.

BEAUTY

And now Beauty-, Angela Pradhan of Sapta Shree Gyan Peeth has done what no other girls from Kalimpong has ever done before. She has won the title of the 1st Runners Up in the recently held Miss Hills Contest that was held in Kurseong. 17 year old Angela, a Class XI student was selected as the 1st Runners Up in contest which had 20 other dazzling beauties from Darjeeling, Kurseong Mirik. She was the only participant from Kalimpong and had participated in the test after seeing an advertisement announcing the Beauty Contest in a local paper. Speaking to Himalayan Times, Angela says, "My aim in life is to become a model and this is my first step towards achieving my aim." She goes on to say, "I want to take part in more such contests but only after I complete my Class 12 because I feel that education is extremely important in life." Angela gives the credit of her victory to her mother, Hima. "My mother really encouraged me and I owe this victory to her." she says. Both her mother Hima and her father, B.K.Pradhan are employees of the Post Office in Kalimpong.

Angela also says that she was extremely touched by the gesture of her school authorities who announced her victory in the school assembly and also invited her to say a few words in front of the assembly. With the likes of Angela, Neha, Surabhi and Manisha in Kalimpong, the town has no shortage of role models for the rest of the youths of the town to follow.



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BY N.S. SUBBA

Editorial

Natural Beauty, cool and mild climate, lots of greenery, clear unobstructed view of the Himalayan range, good accommodation, central geographical location- what doesn't Kalimpong have in its bid to claim a more respectable and prominent place in the tourist map?? It, in fact, has every such thing which a Hill tourist resort needs to have - but why still do we keep faltering whenever it is time to eat the tourist pie?? Why is it that Kalimpong always loses out to its more famous neighbours every tourist season in a bid to woo the tourists?? After having talked to scores of tourists, local people, travel agents, transporters and others related to the tourist trade in Kalimpong, I have come to one conclusion. The prime reason for Kalimpong losing out to our more famous sisters is due to the attitude of some of the citizens of these very famous sisters of ours. "Don't go to Kalimpong, its politically disturbed, there is nothing to see there, there is no water or electricity in Kalimpong, there aren't enough good hotels there", etc etc is what is fed to those tourists who visit Darjeeling and Gangtok and intend to proceed to Kalimpong from there. They are presented with such an ugly picture of Kalimpong that almost 50% of those wanting to visit Kalimpong actually change their minds.

Hence I feel that unless and until Kalimpong comes out of the shadow of Darjeeling and Gangtok, our tourism industry will never bloom as it should. The more we remain under their shadow, the more our growth will be stunted. Its high time now that we create our own identity independent of our more famous sisters.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY THING THAT
YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE
REST OF KALIMPONG ???**

HAVE YOUR SAY AT

YOUR PAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was fortunate enough to come across your publication a couple of weeks back when I was visiting my home town , Kalimpong, after almost a year. The magazine is very informative to the scholars and general readers of Darjeeling Hills.

Congratulations to you for your endeavor and efforts to bring out this invaluable news letter.

Vimal Khawas,
Research Scholar, J.N.U.
Delhi

Sir,

Sudden and unexpected defeat of NDA and the surprising victory of the Congress and its allies in the 14th Lok Shaba elections and its ultimate claim to power indicates that the Indian voters are maturing slowly with the passage of time. Now they know how to choose the kind of Government they need.

The NDA government inspite of its long list of success stories during its eight years of rule has been voted out of power. The defeat of NDA sends a strong warning to Politicians and to the political parties as well that henceforth citizens cannot be taken for granted. And moreover religion and casteism are no more a basis for vote banks for the politicians. Any Govt. that comes to power should now either perform or perish.

Now, the responsibility has fallen on the Congress. We hope it will be able to bring peace and development side by side as needed by the people of the country.

Naleshwar Narzari
Children Faith Home
Kalimpong

ROTARY ORGANIZES WALKATHON

BY KARAN SHAH

For the benefits of the students and society as a whole, the Rotary Club of Kalimpong, had organized a 15-kilometer walk recently. This club known for holding various other voluntary services for the citizens of Kalimpong like Health Camps, etc. Just about a months back they had organized a free Orthopedics and hearing aid distribution camp. Interestingly the club, a voluntary organization does not receive any kind of fund from abroad. "Besides other purposes the "Walkathon" was organized as a way to generate funds for community service projects. An important factor for such an event is also to bring about a general awareness amongst the youth about the ill effects of Drugs Use. We have also got other subsidiary purposes eg. Environment etc" said Mr. Pravakar Dewan-Director of International Service, Rotary Club.

Commencing from the Mela Ground the walkathon ended at the Halpo ground situated at the Munsong Cinchona Plantation. Along with first aid and refreshment facilities, there were also be about eight checkpoints, in the 15-kilometer walk. Among the four hundred participants, almost 3/4 were students. For every kilometer, the sponsors paid a sum of Rupees Five. The Organizers also believe that, the students will largely benefit from such kinds of events.

The student participants were from various schools of Kalimpong, namely, St Augustine's, Dr Graham Homes, Rockvale Academy, and Springdale Academy etc. This is the second time; the club has organized such an event.



The last was held in 1997. "The last time around, there was only a turnout of about 150, but this year it has risen to more than double. This really shows the interest among the children as well as their parents" said Dewan. A one-way transportation back to Kalimpong was also provided to all the participants. Along with that, a certificate was also given to all.

KAZI LENDUP DORJEE HONOURED

BY KARAN SHAH

The Sikkim Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling paid a personal visit to the first Chief Minister of Sikkim Mr. L. D. Kazi, who at present resides in Kalimpong. Mr. Kazi is counted as one of the most influential personalities present in the town. He was the first person to take up the issue of the "Merge of Sikkim",

with India in the mid 70's, but lately he has been suffering from illness due to old age. Chief Minister from year, 1974-79, he turned 101 in 2004. The 2003 Padma Bibushan recipient was granted a sum of Rupee One Lakh, by Mr. Chamling on behalf of the Sikkim Govt, as expenses for his medical treatment. From January 2003 onwards, the Former Minister, has also been receiving pension.



The "Padma Bibushan was granted to him, by the Indian Govt. as a recognition of the services rendered by him to the state of Sikkim. Mr. Chamling also announced that the former minister will be a recipient of the, first of its kind, the "Sikkim Patra Puraskar", an award being instituted by the Sikkim Govt from this year onwards. This award will be given to him, on the 15th of August this year. The Sikkim Govt is also committed to building a "museum", as a collection of all the personal belongings of the former CM. Speaking to Himalayan Times with regards his party's success in the Assembly Polls, where the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) won 31 out of 32 seats, Chamling said, "In the 1994 polls, we had managed to win 19 seats, in 1999, 25, and now 31. This clearly shows the pro-incumbency factor present in Sikkim. The general, masses now clearly understand the meaning of politics, and understand the progress that the SDF has brought in the last couple of years" He also stated, "Sikkim, now can be set-up as an example, infact a "Model State", for the Govt of India. In this years election we had a turnout of 74 percent valid voters in favour of SDF"

"We want our Govt to be, youth, revenue, and "Action and Result" oriented one. We will exploit all natural resources, work on eco-friendly tourism, set up Hydel-Projects and bring massive development", he added

GARDEN COMPETITION – SPRING 2004

The “Prize Distribution Ceremony” for the much talked about and unique “Garden Competition-Spring 2004”, organized by the Kalimpong Horticulture Society was held recently at the “Disha Hall”. The garden competition, a four day contest, was unique in the sense that all the judges visited the gardens, instead of a fixed venue. The occasion had Shri Hangu Subba, Vice-Chairman, and DGAHC, as the chief guest. “This concept of Garden contest is to be maintained, because flowers are always a part of one’s life. We will put in huge efforts, so that the place can one day be termed as the “Holland of the East”, said Mr. M S Foning, the President of the KHS. Commenting on the irregularity of the contest, which took place after a gap of five years, Mr. Foning said, “Due to financial constraints, we had a break of four years, but we will make sure that it continues from now onwards”. Though there were no overall standings, the positions were based categorically. There were a total of nine categories for the competition, ranging from schools to commercial and religious establishments. While the res-

taurant “Fresh Bite” stood first in “Commercial Establishments”, it was the “St Josephs Convent”, from the “Educational Institution” category. The “Silver Oaks” and “Pine View Nursery” were foremost in the “Hotels and Nursery” category respectively. The



Kalimpong Sub-Divisional Hospital and the Tourist Guest House at Deolo were awarded with the “Best Effort” Prize. Surprisingly the Kalimpong Police Station had also participated in the contest, though they didn’t come up with any prize. “It is known that Kalimpong, is the only place, from the whole of the North East, from where flowers are exported to the worldwide”, said Mr. Manoj Pradhan, the convener of KHS, while Shri Hangu Subba, thanking the society for putting in such a massive effort for the contest said, “We will try our best, for, some official help for the society”.

Mr. Rajdeep Pradhan, owner of Fresh Bite who claimed the first position in Commercial Establishments, says, “Such competitions, will not only add to the enthusiasm of the general masses, but the main factor is that it will promote Kalimpong, from the tourism perspective. The town is always known for its unique flowers, but such competitions will always add to the overall standards”. To all those who don’t have much knowledge of the town from the Floriculture viewpoint, Kalimpong has been titled, “The Green House” for its quality to produce all kinds of plants, ranging from desert accustomed “Cactuses” to the frosty habituated “Orchids”, leaving aside all the seasonal plants and flowers.

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